

Received: 9 April 2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33182/ipr.v3i1.3588>

EDITORIAL

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We are pleased to present the third issue of Istanbul Policy Review (IPR), released in July 2025 amid a period of intensifying geopolitical realignments, democratic backsliding, and deepening socio-economic inequalities across regions. This issue brings together critical voices and fresh perspectives that speak to some of the most pressing challenges of our time—ranging from structural violence and state power to national identity and global strategy.

We begin with Monia O'Brien Castro's compelling exploration of the 2011 English riots. Her work confronts dominant narratives of lawlessness and repositions the events within a matrix of exclusion, media control, and state repression. The piece offers not only a historically grounded case study but also an urgent invitation to rethink the boundaries of political protest and legitimacy.

Mohitha Mohan's article traces the arc of Britain's two referenda—1975 and 2016—offering a reflective and critical account of how participatory democratic processes can lead to divergent national trajectories. The piece speaks to broader debates around populism, sovereignty, and the shifting contours of European integration.

From a global comparative lens, Jinil John applies small state theory to Nepal and Luxembourg, highlighting how structurally dissimilar yet politically vulnerable nations can exercise agency on the international stage. This study reaffirms the analytical value of smaller actors in a world typically dominated by major power narratives.

Faruk Kiliç's timely contribution analyzes Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and its ambitions to diversify away from an oil-dependent economy. Through a geopolitical lens, the article examines how economic reform, branding, and diplomacy intersect to reshape the Kingdom's regional posture.

Finally, Ammu S turns our attention to Türkiye, critically evaluating its position between China and the West. In a world increasingly characterized by rivalry rather than cooperation, Türkiye's balancing act presents a rich case of a middle power attempting to assert strategic autonomy without alienating key partners.

As a journal, Istanbul Policy Review is committed to fostering original, policy-relevant scholarship that engages critically with contemporary global and regional issues. We place

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particular emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches and on voices that challenge conventional wisdom.

We are grateful to our editorial board, reviewers, and contributors for their tireless commitment to intellectual rigor and constructive critique. Special thanks are due to our assistant editors and copy editors, whose behind-the-scenes work ensures both academic integrity and readability. I am also deeply thankful to the international scholars who responded to our call for papers and entrusted us with their work.

Looking ahead, our upcoming issues will explore themes such as climate justice, digital authoritarianism, post-conflict memory, and feminist global governance. As always, we welcome new contributions that seek to broaden the frontiers of public policy scholarship.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Assoc. Prof. Zeynep Banu Dalaman

Editor, Istanbul Policy Review

